

In the stationery line, much the same condition of things is reported. Many of the United States paper houses, whose trade had suffered by the financial panic of the year, have sought the more vigorously to secure a share of the Canadian trade. This, coupled with the keen and unhealthy competition of some of the Canadian paper mills, has militated against the legitimate trade of the paper dealers.

The book trade is not without its grievances. Among these, the existing inequalities in the collection of customs duties form one of some moment. This is felt particularly by the newsdealers. Magazines, such as fashion magazines, etc., are subjected to a varying rate of duty at different ports of entry, and it often happens that subscribers who order direct from the publishers, not only have their magazines but also their books come in free from duty, and in the cities have them delivered by the P. O. carriers, while the newsdealer has invariably to pay the duty and accept delivery at the Post Office. When it is considered that the duty on some magazines amounts to ten cents per copy, the disadvantage to the dealer is glaringly evident.

It is thought a remedy for these inequalities is to be found in a uniform ruling being sent from the Customs Department at Ottawa to every port of entry.

Another disadvantage under which the book trade labors is in the postal regulations, which largely discriminate against the Canadian publisher and bookseller, to the advantage of the United States dealer, our postal rate on paper-covered books being 4c. per lb., while the United States rate is only 1c. per lb. Thus it is cheaper for a merchant at any distance from our distributing centres to purchase in New York, as the saving in postage by so doing is equal to \$3.00 per 100 lbs.

There is not the rigid protection of Canadian copyrights that the owners of these copyrights are entitled to. Cheap editions from the American publishers are allowed in by post, particularly in the smaller towns.

The Book and Stationery Section are unanimous in the assertion of the absolute right of Canada to legislate for herself in copyright matters. They stand firmly by the Copyright Act of 1889, and urge upon the new Premier, Sir Mackenzie Bowell, to maintain Canadian rights in this matter as zealously as did the late lamented head of the Government, Sir John Thompson. Our interests have too long been sacrificed for the benefit of the English publisher, and it is but natural that the Canadian publisher should resent the common practice of English houses in handing over the Canadian market to the United States publisher.

The new tariff regulations, admitting free of duty all books consigned to Public Libraries, Mechanics' Institutes, and University and College Libraries, etc., have proved unsatisfactory, even to the parties for whose benefit they were framed. The rules pertaining to the admission of free books must lead to unfair discrimination.

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